

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OLIVER HARRISON JR,

No. 3:13-cv-05843 (JCS)

Plaintiff(s),

NOTICE REGARDING SUMMARY
JUDGMENT MOTIONS AND RULE
12(b)(6) DISMISSAL MOTIONS

v.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, ET AL.,

Defendant(s).

Defendant in this case may file a motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a motion for dismissal under Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This notice is written to explain to the pro se plaintiff the process involved in each type of motion.

A. SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A motion for summary judgment provides a procedure for terminating an action without trial if “there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and ... the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). Material facts are those which may affect the outcome of the case. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A dispute as to a material fact is genuine if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to return a verdict for the party opposing the motion for summary judgment. Id.

The party filing the motion for summary judgment is called the “moving party.” The moving party bears the initial burden of identifying those portions of the pleadings, discovery and affidavits which demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. Celotex Corp. v. Cattrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986). Where the moving party will have the burden of proof on an issue at trial, it

1 must affirmatively demonstrate that no reasonable trier of fact could find other than for the moving
2 party. But on an issue for which the opposing party will have the burden of proof at trial, the
3 moving party need only point out that there is an absence of evidence to support the opposing
4 party's case. Id.

5 Once the moving party meets its initial burden, the opposing party may not rest upon the
6 allegations or denials of unverified pleadings, but must file an opposition setting forth specific facts
7 showing that there is a genuine issue for trial. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e). The facts relied upon must be
8 admissible under rules governing admission of evidence generally, and must be presented in items
9 such as: (1) declarations based on personal knowledge, accompanied by sworn or certified copies of
10 all documents referred to in the declaration¹; id.; (2) discovery documents, such as answers to
11 deposition questions, answers to interrogatories or answers to requests for admissions, that have
12 been properly authenticated by a declaration by someone with personal knowledge of the
13 documents' accuracy, Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c); (3) verified complaints that meet the requirements of
14 Rule 56(e) (that is, complaints containing factual assertions that are within the pleader's personal
15 knowledge and are otherwise admissible evidence), see Schroeder v. McDonald, 55 F.3d 454,460
16 (9th Cir. 1995); Keenan v. Hall, 83 F.3d 1083, 1090 n.1 (9th Cir. 1996)). The evidence presented on
17 each claim must not only be admissible, but also must be sufficient for a jury to reasonably return a
18 verdict for the opposing party. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 249. If the opposing party fails to contradict
19 the moving party with declarations or other evidence, the moving party's evidence may be taken as
20 the truth.

21 It is not the district court's job to search the record for a genuine issue of triable fact.
22 Keenan v. Allen, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th Cir. 1996). The opposing party has the burden of
23 identifying with reasonable particularity the evidence that precludes summary judgment. Id. If the
24 opposing party fails to do so, the district court may properly dismiss the claims. Id.

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27 ¹A declaration is a statement of facts which are personally known to the person making the declaration. The facts
28 in a declaration must be admissible in evidence, i.e., evidentiary facts and not conclusions or argument. The declaration must
show affirmatively that the person making the declaration is competent to testify to the matters stated therein and contain no
inadmissible hearsay or opinions. A declaration must be made under penalty of perjury, i.e., it must be signed at the end after
the statement "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed
on [date]."

1 If the moving party has met its burden of proof and the opposing party fails to set forth
2 specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial, then “the moving party is entitled to
3 judgment as a matter of law.” Celotex Corp., 477 U.S. at 323. A successful motion for summary
4 judgment terminates the action without trial, and will result in a final judgment on the merits.

5 B. DISMISSAL MOTION

6 Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, defendant may file a
7 motion to dismiss for failure of the pleading to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Such
8 motion shall be treated as one for summary judgment and disposed of as provided in Rule 56, and all
9 parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to present all material made pertinent to such a motion
10 by Rule 56.

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12 Dated: March 26, 2014

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15 JOSEPH C. SPERO
16 United States Magistrate Judge
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